under PDS. No specific complaint about the supply of poor quality of foodgrains and sugar in Andhra Pradesh has been received.

State Governments are free to inspect the stocks of the foodgrains and satisfy themselves about their quality before lifting the same from FCI depots. The State Governments have also been advised to depute an officer not below the rank of inspector to check the quality of stocks. FCI is supplying foodgrains to the State Governments as per laid down specifications of the Government after obtaining the certificate from State Government nominees that they are satisfied with the quality.

Levy sugar is allotted to the States/Union Territories subject *inter-alia*, to the condition that the quality of levy sugar to be supplied shall conform to ISS grade by sulphitation/carbonation process. As such, before lifting the sugar from sugar factory, the quality of sugar should conform to ISS and if sugar conforming to ISS is distributed under PDS, there will not be any complaint regarding its quality.

No complaint has been received from any State Government about the supply of sub-standards sugar under the PDS.

Export of Sugar

1673. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of sugar exported during the last three years; and

(b) the quantity of sugar proposed to be exported during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) As per the data published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, the quantity and value of sugar exported during the last three financial years are as under:—

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Export (lakh tonnes)	Value in Rs./Crores
1.	1999-2000	12,990	18.14
2.	2000-2001	3,38,691	430.97
3.	2001-2002	14,56,221(P)	1728.04(P)

(P) Provisional

(b) Government has lifted the quantitative ceiling on export of sugar and has dispensed with the requirement of registration with the Agricultural Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA). Export of sugar would depend upon, *inter-alia*, the international prices. However, to give a boost to export of sugar, the Government has amended the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 to defray expenditure on internal transport & freight charges to the sugar factories on export shipments of sugar.

Fake mineral water companies

1674. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government were aware of the fact that a large number of fake and unlicensed mineral water companies are selling substandard water in all parts of the country;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by his Ministry to control these fake companies;

(c) how many companies have been checked by his Ministry and the number of companies found guilty; and

(d) whether Government would plan to bring any legislation with rigid penalty clauses to stop these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Some representations have been received that Mineral Water/Packaged Drinking Water is being sold without Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Certification Mark. The Food (Health) Authorities of the State Governments which are responsible for implementation of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder, have been requested by the Central Government to take appropriate action in the matter and not to allow the manufacture storage and sale of Mineral Water/Packaged Drinking Water without BIS Certification Mark.